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a young and vigorous conglomeration of old-world peoples conquering the vast forces of nature, under strange physical conditions hampered by traditions from ancient Rome, yet imbued with the most modern ideas of liberty and fraternity tempered with sane conceptions of equality.

The vigorous and picturesque nature of the gaucho is brilliantly set forth. Legends, short stories and sketches portray the intimate life of the people. Ibáñez gives the impressions of a traveller approaching for the first time the largest Latin city of the world, after a long sea voyage. Gutiérrez depicts the scenes and incidents of the overland journey from Valparaíso to Buenos Aires.

The history is well done, and the political science is the best of all. One sees the early struggle for independence, the frequent lapses into anarchy, the final incorporation into a genuine republic, like and yet unlike our own in many respects.

There are two articles in this little book that deserve to become classics. Ernesto Nelson, discussing "El Congreso de Tucumán," in clear and lucid language, displays a profundity and honesty of thought that is as rare as it is impressive. Bartolomé Mitre in "La Abdicación de San Martín" writes with the practiced hand of an editorial expert, with a clearness of vision and an impartiality that does justice to one of the noblest and saddest episodes of all history. It is but another pathetic instance of the ingratitude of a democracy and the recognition, all too late, that they had been entertaining an angel unawares. San Martín, the Washington of South America, died in poverty and exile—probably one of the most remarkable instances in history of pure, unselfish patriotism. The book closes with the text of the so-called Drago Doctrine, the protest of the Argentine government against forcing Venezuela, then under the heel of Castro, to pay her public debts to foreign powers. It is an adroit case of special pleading, but one cannot help asking what would have been the attitude of Argentina if she had been the creditor herself.

The book is well illustrated, the maps are appropriate, the notes illuminating and not too pedagogic, the vocabulary, so far as tested, complete. Eccentricities of accent and spelling are less common than is the general rule in first editions. The publishers are to be congratulated on producing one of the most satisfying and appropriate books of the season for young Americans.

E. L. C. MORSE

SCÈNES ET RÉCITS DE LA GRANDE GUERRE. RÉGIS
MICHAUD. D. C. Heath & Co., 1920.

In this little book Professor Michaud has made an interesting addition to the war-text-book literature which is a natural outgrowth of the long struggle. In form it differs from most of the

other books of the type, as it is neither a diary nor a succession of descriptive chapters, but a series of letters exchanged chiefly between a young French officer, formerly a Harvard student, and his American chum. The epistolary form has the advantage of breaking up the narrative into short, lively, anecdotal chapters, and of giving continuity and sustained interest. As a historical document it is not without value, as it contains in full the text of some of the speeches and orders of French generals; and, since it covers the whole period 1914-18, it serves to show the gradual change of sentiment in the United States and its participation in the war. The book ends with the advance of the A.E.F. and the victory of Chateau Thierry.

There follows a group of questions on each of the thirty-four chapters. These are short, and are probably as interesting as such set questions can be. The notes are full and helpful, and the vocabulary well made. It seems to me a distinct advantage to put before every noun its complete article, *le* or *la*, and in the case of a vowel or "h" mute, the indefinite article, instead of merely putting "m" or "f" after the noun. This method solves the mute and aspirate "h" problem neatly.

I see no reason why Professor Michaud's book should not find a warm welcome among the young people of this generation and their teachers.

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A LETTER BOX: SHALL WE HAVE ONE?

The suggestion has come from several quarters that the JOURNAL should have a department in which our readers may express their views, more or less informally, on the various topics brought to their attention by articles in the JOURNAL, by other publications, or by their own cogitation and experiences. The editors would heartily welcome any such communications and would gladly give them space, as a whole or in part, reserving only the most necessary editorial privileges. We should, for example, be very glad to learn what some of our readers think of the article by the late Calvin Thomas in the October issue, which undoubtedly opened up a considerable field for discussion; to publish comments on the Spanish syllabus printed in this number; to learn, informally, what our readers think about various professional matters on which they might be glad to express themselves in a few paragraphs whereas they would be too modest to propose putting their views into an article.